

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Friday, November 22, 2013 – 8:30 a.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

President Wayne L. Niederhauser, Senate Chair
Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss

Members Absent:

Sen. Aaron Osmond
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig

Staff Present:

Ms. Tiffany A. Stanley, Policy Analyst
Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Angela Oakes Stallings, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Niederhauser called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Sen. Osmond, Rep. Last, and Rep. Seelig were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Gibson was absent for the vote.

2. Draft Legislation, "Governance of the Utah Education Workforce Alliance and Utah Futures"

Ms. Stallings and Sen. Stephenson reviewed details of 2014 General Session draft legislation, "Governance of the Utah Education Workforce Alliance and Utah Futures" (2014FL-0535/016), which establishes the Utah Education Workforce Alliance and amends provisions regarding the governance of the Utah Education Workforce Alliance and Utah Futures.

Dr. Martell Menlove, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, stated that the data system described in the bill can contain sensitive information. He stated that the security of student data is a high priority for the Utah State Board of Education (USBE).

Mr. Peter Cannon, member, Davis School District Board of Education, speaking for himself, commented on the security risk of aggregating data and stated that it may be more secure to set up multiple smaller systems that are easier to defend.

Sen. Stephenson recognized the importance of safeguarding sensitive information but emphasized the need for the type of system described in the bill so that students, parents, and policy makers can make data-driven decisions.

The task force discussed concerns with the bill, including uncertainty surrounding the appropriation amount and data security concerns.

Chair Neiderhauser noted that the draft legislation will be revised to address the task force's concerns and considered at the next task force meeting.

3. Strategic Plan Framework

Speaker Lockhart requested input on the draft document, "Strategic Plan Framework," which provides a proposed framework for the roles and responsibilities of entities within the education system including local schools, the USBE, and the Legislature. The task force discussed the matter and suggested adding student responsibilities to the framework.

4. Key Factors Contributing to High Student Achievement

Supt. Menlove and Mr. David L. Thomas, member, District 4, Utah State Board of Education, addressed the handout, "Key Factors Contributing to High Student Achievement – Internal to the School," which details the five key factors, according to the USBE, that contribute to high student achievement. They said the key factors include:

- 1) strong school leadership;
- 2) high quality instruction for all students;
- 3) appropriate assessments inform data-driven decision making;
- 4) targeted interventions meet individual student needs; and
- 5) high quality professional development.

The task force discussed the key factors, including how the USBE intends to accomplish them.

Ms. Melissa Marler, parent, Ogden School District, discussed the importance of nurturing and personal connection for student achievement.

Mr. Cliff Haynes, parent, Willow Elementary School, Tooele County School District, stated that his district is doing well in the areas the task force has discussed. He suggested that districts share information with one another to spread best practices.

Supt. Menlove noted that the sharing of best practices is happening informally in state school districts.

5. State Rankings in Education

Ms. Steffen reviewed a document, "State Rankings in Education," which illustrates state rankings of students' academic performance as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the ACT, and high school graduation rates. Ms. Steffen noted that, in 2013, Utah had the highest ACT composite score among the 11 states where at least 95% of the students take the ACT.

6. Task Force Report

Chair Niederhauser announced that the task force report will be finalized in the next task force meeting.

7. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Speaker Lockhart, Sen. Jones, and Rep. Gibson were absent for the vote.

Chair Niederhauser adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.